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APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A
FILING DATE UNDER 35 USC 111.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/431,342

FILING DATE: December 05, 2002

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12-06-02 60451542120514P2

PTO/SB/16 (02-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002 OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET**

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53 (c).

Express Mail Label No. EL 827847139 DATE: 12/5/02

INVENTOR(S)		
Given Name (first and middle [if any]) WALID	Family Name or Surname ALI	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country) MONTROSE, NY

 Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto**TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)****A SYSTEM MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR A SIGNAL-PROCESSING-BASED DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM****CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

Direct all correspondence to:

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION		
Address 580 WHITE PLAINS ROAD		
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City TARRYTOWN	State NY	ZIP 10591
Country USA	Telephone 914 332-0222	Fax 914 332-0615

ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages 12	<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76	

METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT (check one)

- Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
- A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: 14-1270
- Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

FILING FEE
AMOUNT (\$)
160

The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.

- No.
- Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____.

Respectfully submitted,
SIGNATURETYPED or PRINTED NAME
RUSSELL GROSS

TELEPHONE 914 333-9631

Date
12/06
REGISTRATION NO.
40,007
(if appropriate)Docket Number:
US020505**USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT**

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is used by the public to file (and by the PTO to process) a provisional application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete provisional application to the PTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

WALID ALI

US 020505

Serial No.:

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Title: A SYSTEM MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR A SIGNAL-PROCESSING-BASED
DECISION SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

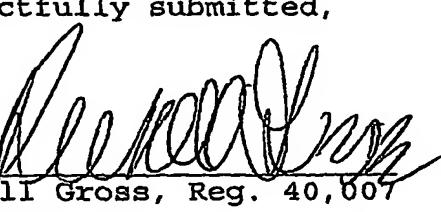
AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 31.136(a)(3)
AND TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Sir:

The Commissioner is hereby requested and authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply in this application requiring a petition for extension of time for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

Please charge any additional fees which may now or in the future be required in this application, including extension of time fees, but excluding the issue fee unless explicitly requested to do so, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Attorney
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A SYSTEM MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR A SIGNAL- PROCESSING-BASED DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the management of a signal-processing based support system for Decision Support Systems (DSS). More particularly, the present invention relates to the development of a DSS whose components are generally non-linear.

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2. Description of the Invention

When streaming multimedia data over scarce-resource devices (e.g. streaming video/multimedia over wireless networks) there is always a tradeoff between quality of the received signal and the associated costs. For example, in the case where one chooses to stream video over a wireless device, such as a Personal Data Assistant (PDA) of a cell phone with a G3 configuration, there is the possibility that network congestion (which may or may not have been foreseen) and/or a sudden decrease of the available bandwidth might occur. It is also possible that the available storage medium might also suddenly decrease unexpectedly.

20 Such unexpected variations in bandwidth availability can affect the multimedia stream in a catastrophic fashion. For example, in the case of video conferencing (which may or may not occur on a cell phone) the call could be dropped due to network congestion.

Should one be downloading multimedia (e.g. purchasing a movie via downloading to a storage device) any variation in bandwidth that produces a drop would cause the session to fail and the user would be required to restart the session.

5 In addition, there are many other factors beside image quality that should be taken into account, and these factors have not been considered by the prior art. For example, there are competing factors of power dissipation, market costs, and time to market versus image quality, as shown in Fig. 1. The relationships between such factors do not always fit into proportions such that a solution can be obtained algebraically or easily. However, 10 there is a need for an overall scheme to provide a management scheme for a signal-processing-based decision support system.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 Accordingly, it is an aspect of the present invention to provide a system that manages a signal-processing-based decision support system. The decision support system is capable of dynamically deciding the best allocation of bandwidth to reduce/eliminate the possibility that multimedia streaming has catastrophic interrupts, in accordance with other competing factors such as power dissipation, market costs, etc. In other words, the system 20 automatically decides the best allocation under the circumstances and adapts to further changes in circumstances. Whether the changed circumstances are due to one or a combination of network congestion, decrease in bandwidth available, temporary loss of a storage medium, power reduction, etc., the system will automatically adjust the parameters of the multimedia stream to preserve the most important aspects thereof. During a

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conference call, typically preserving the clarity of the audio would be more important than displaying a slightly fuzzy video, so the re-allocation in that particular case can be made with ensuring that audio quality is preserved at a certain level.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a few of the competing factors in a decision support system.

FIG. 2 illustrates a simplified block diagram of the system according to an 10 embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a flowchart highlighting an aspect of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

15 In the following description, for purposes of explanation rather than limitation, specific details are set forth such as the particular architecture, interfaces, techniques, etc., in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced in other embodiments, which depart from these specific details. Moreover, for the purpose of clarity, detailed descriptions of well-known devices, circuits, and methods are omitted so 20 as not to obscure the description of the present invention with unnecessary detail.

DSS for signal-processing systems are unknown heretofore because the constituent components are generally highly non-linear, the nature of their interaction is not well defined and are most likely non-deterministic. In the modeling process disclosed herein,

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the signal processing system is a complex modeling system that includes structure that controls the associated level of performance, and the expense associated with such systems. Expense associated with these systems could be broken down into manufacturing costs, level of performance for unit money, time to market, and effect on market share.

5 Fig. 2 illustrates an aspect of the video decision support system according to the present invention.

An optimizer module 100 comprises a Multi-Objective Genetic Algorithm (MOGA) sub-module 105 and a statistical analyzer 110. The MOGA searches the hyper space whose coordinates are the different kinds of expenses and the signal processing 10 parameters. The MOGA enables a non-deterministic search space adequately and permits the finding of global optima without being stuck at local optima from initial indications of genetic algorithm models. Applicant respectfully incorporates by reference U.S. patent application serial 09/717,981 entitled "System and Method for Optimizing Parameter settings in a chain of Video Processing Algorithms" by Walid S.I. Ali and Cornelis Van 15 Zon, and serial 09/734,823 entitled "System and Method for providing a Scalable Dynamic Objective Metric for automatic Video Quality Evaluation" by Walid S.I. Ali and Cornelis Van Zon as background material regarding the role of genetic algorithms and optimizing control parameter settings by a multi-objective engine to help formulate better search points to find global optima.

20 The statistical analyzer 110, which analyzes inputs such as market costs 125 and time to market 126, can provide in conjunction with the rest of the system provide formal estimates for the relationship between image quality, manufacturing costs, time to market, power dissipation, bandwidth usage, etc. There can be additional/extraneous factors (any extra factors that may need to be or preferably should be analyzed in this scheme), and they are

represented by box 127 (e.g. bandwidth, network congestion, etc). Typically, the statistical analyzer will interpolate the data which it compiles, and such information can be provided to the MOGA for further analysis.

5 A video-processing system 115 is adapted for receiving a video stream input. The system includes a picture color improvement module 117 and a sharpness enhancement and noise cancellation modules 119. A video quality evaluation module 121 receives the video from the video processing system 115 and rates the quality (e.g. good, bad and possibly many variations therebetween) based on predetermined objective criteria.

The optimizer module 100 will initially provide for a level setting of parameters 10 and controls based on the initial criteria regarding image quality, costs, power dissipation, etc. During operation, the optimizer module 100 communicates with the video processing system to change level settings in the video processing system 115 of parameters, controls, etc., which in turn causes the video output to be modified. The modification of the video output, in turn, may cause the video quality evaluation module 121 to change. As the video 15 quality is evaluated, this evaluation is provided to the MOGA 105 of the optimizer module 100, wherein the MOGA will provide for further changes in level settings and parameters until the video quality evaluation module 121 provides the optimum evaluation (taking into account, of course, the other previously discussed competing factors considered by the optimizer module). The video quality evaluation module may evaluate a video stream in 20 components, for example, with an overall quality rating and/or one for the audio, video and text portions of the stream. In this way, the MOGA 105 can prioritize which portion of the stream should quality be maintained if there is a requirement to cut back on some transmission settings.

For example, during a conference call on a G3 cellphone, the video quality may be lower in priority than audio quality, so at times the video quality would be sacrificed rather than lose the audio portion of the conference call. This change in quality may be caused by network congestion, sudden reduction in available bandwidth, reduced power availability, changed storage requirements, etc.

The MOGA permits good solutions (high signal quality, e.g. with video, and crisp clear video stream) with a high level of confidence. The multi-objective search engine has the capability to change the structure and the parameters of the signal processing system under study and its associated level of performance is reported back to the multi-objective engine to help formulating better search points.

Fig. 3 is a flowchart providing explanation of an aspect of the present invention. At step 300, a video stream is received by the video processing system 115.

At step 305, the system, which preferably has initial default settings for controls and parameters, so that color improvement by the module 117 and sharpness enhancement and noise cancellation are output to the video quality evaluation module 121.

At step 310, the video quality evaluation module evaluates the quality, and reports the evaluation to the video optimizer 100 (particularly the MOGA 105). The quality evaluation is preferably according to scalable objective metrics referred to in the previously incorporated by reference U.S. patent application serial 09/734,823, but it is not an absolute requirement of the present invention. The video quality evaluation module 121 provides the quality evaluation to the MOGA of the video optimizer 100.

At step 315, the MOGA analyzes the video quality evaluation, and in conjunction with receipt of the level settings of parameters of the video processing system, and the

costs, time and other factors, processes the information using genetic algorithms and provides settings of control parameters to the video processing system 115.

At step 320, it is determined whether or not the video stream has ended or there is another video stream. If there are more evaluations from the video quality evaluation module 121, the MOGA will evaluate the criteria (such as control settings, video quality, etc.) and update the level settings of parameters and controls. It is also possible for the MOGA to re-evaluate at intervals, such as every other stream, for example, or even more than once per stream, assuming that computing power is fast enough to make such re-evaluations at fractions of a stream.

While several aspects of the present invention have been illustrated and described, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made, and equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the true scope of the present invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt to a particular situation and the teaching of the present invention without departing from the central scope of the claimed invention.

For example, when the statistical analyzer is interpolating factors such as "time to market" the system is more of a prototype than a finished consumer product, as it allows engineers to view different image qualities without just varying costs, but market timing. However, the system can also be a practical system that functions in, for example, conferencing equipment at a retail level. In such a scenario, users may be able to prioritize various factors that have an overall effect on image quality. Therefore, it is intended that the present invention not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed as the best mode contemplated for carrying out the present invention, but that the present invention include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A decision support system for a signal processing system comprising:
 5. a video processing system for receiving and processing a video stream and providing a video output;
 10. a video quality evaluation module that receives the video output from the video processing system and evaluates the quality according to predetermined criteria;
 15. a video optimizer adapted for receiving the evaluated quality of the video output from evaluation module and level settings of parameters and for setting controls of the levels settings of parameters of video processing system, said video optimizer including a Multi Objective Genetic Algorithm (MOGA) engine, wherein said MOGA uses genetic algorithms to optimize the settings of controls for video processing system to optimize quality at a predetermined level.
 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said optimizer includes a statistical analyzer that associates at least one item with setting controls of the level settings of parameters of video processing system to receive a certain image quality evaluated by quality evaluation module.
 20. 3. The system according to claim 2, wherein said at least one item includes manufacturing costs.

4. The system according to claim 3, wherein the manufacturing costs include time to market.

5 5. The system according to claim 2, wherein said at least one item analyzed by the statistical analyzer includes bandwidth availability.

6. The system according to claim 2, wherein said at least one item analyzed by the statistical analyzer includes network availability.

10 7. The system according to claim 1, wherein the image quality evaluation module evaluates quality of multimedia according to subcomponents of video, audio and text, and the MOGA includes prioritizing instructions so as to prioritize the quality of audio, video and text components of a video stream.

15 8. The system according to claim 8, wherein the system comprises a telephone with video capability and the quality of the audio portion has the highest priority.

20 9. The system according to claim 8, wherein the system comprises a conference call system and the quality of the video portion has the highest priority.

10. The system according to claim 8, wherein the quality of audio is prioritized according to network congestion.

11. The system according to claim 8, wherein the quality of audio is prioritized according to bandwidth availability.

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12. The system according to claim 8, wherein the quality of audio is prioritized according to power dissipation.

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13. A method for a decision support system for a signal-based processor, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) receiving a video-processing stream by a video processing system;
- (b) processing color, sharpness and noise cancellation according to initial default settings and parameters;
- (c) evaluating video quality by an objective video quality evaluation module;
- (d) using a video optimizer to provide level settings and control parameters for the video processing system based on feedback of quality from the video quality evaluation module; and
- (e) determining whether the video stream has ended, and repeating steps (c) through (e) until the video stream has ended.

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14. The method according to claim 14 wherein step (e) further includes determining whether any additional video streams require processing.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the optimizer in step (a) includes a MOGA engine and a statistical analyzer.

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16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the statistical analyzer will analyze at least one item associated with setting controls of the level settings of parameters of the video processing system to receive a certain image quality evaluated by a quality evaluation module.

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17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the at least one item comprises a plurality of items and includes bandwidth availability, and the statistical analyzer interpolates the items.

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18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the at least one item comprises a plurality of items and includes power dissipation, and the statistical analyzer interpolates the items.

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19. The method according to claim 16, wherein the at least one item comprises a plurality of items and includes network availability, and the statistical analyzer interpolates the items.

20. The method according to claim 16, wherein the at least one item comprises a plurality of items and includes time to market, and the statistical analyzer interpolates the items.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A decision support system and a method for a signal processing system includes a video processing system for receiving and processing a video stream and providing a video output; a video quality evaluation module that receives the video output from the video processing system and evaluates the quality according to predetermined criteria; a video optimizer adapted for receiving the evaluated quality of the video output from evaluation module and level settings of parameters and for setting controls of the levels settings of parameters of video processing system, said video optimizer including a Multi Objective Genetic Algorithm (MOGA) engine, wherein the MOGA uses genetic algorithms to optimize the settings of controls for video processing system to optimize image quality at a predetermined level.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

WALID ALI

US 020505

Serial No.:

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Title: A SYSTEM MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR A SIGNAL-PROCESSING-BASED
DECISION SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATES

Sir:

The undersigned Attorney of Record hereby revokes all
prior appointments (if any) of Associate Attorney(s) or Agent(s) in
the above-captioned case and appoints:

RUSSELL GROSS

(Registration No. 40,007)

c/o PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION, Corporate
Intellectual Property, 580 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York
10591, his Associate Attorney(s)/Agent(s) with all the usual powers
to prosecute the above-identified application and any division or
continuation thereof, to make alterations and amendments therein,
and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office
connected therewith.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THIS APPLICATION AND THE
LETTERS PATENT WHEN GRANTED SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE UNDERSIGNED
ATTORNEY OF RECORD.

Respectfully,



Michael E. Marion, Reg. 32,266
Attorney of Record

Dated at Tarrytown, New York
on December 5, 2002.

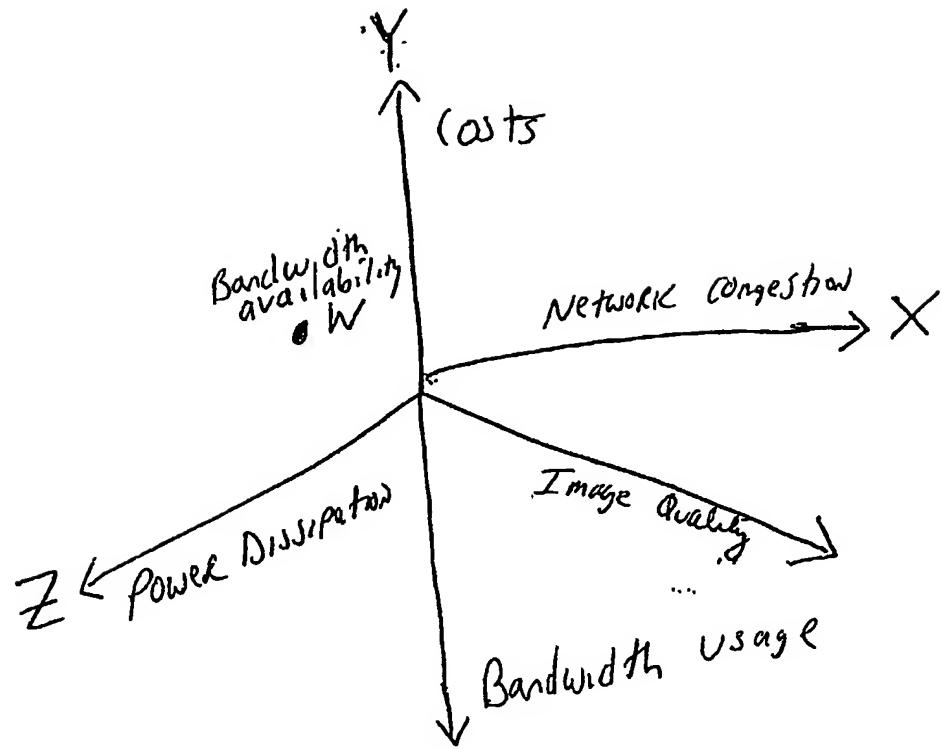


Fig. 1

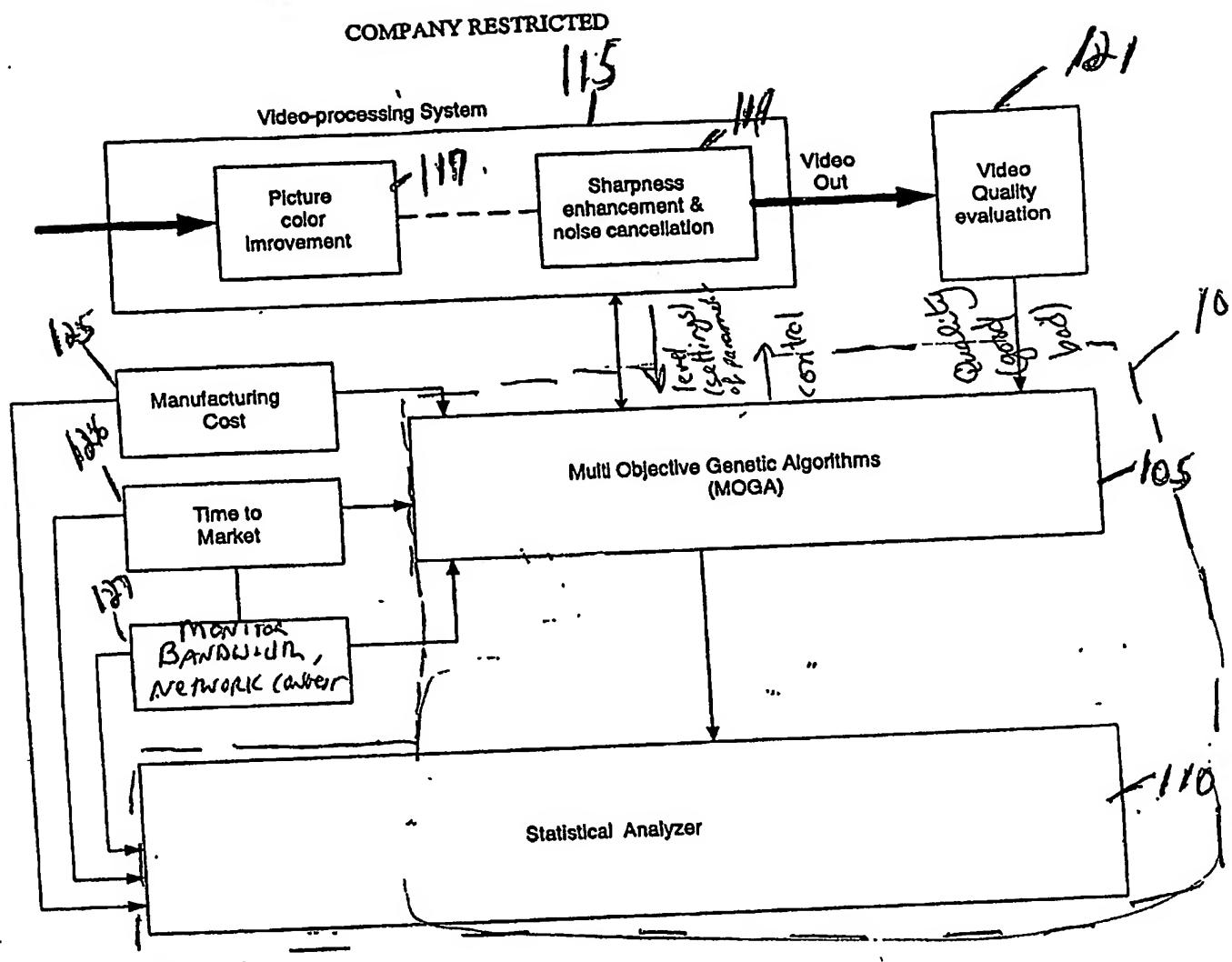


Fig. 3

